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REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the time taken by the Examiner to review Applicant's present application. This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Official Action mailed August 24, 2004. Applicant appreciates the allowance of Claims 1-12 and 21-27.

New Claims

New Claims 28-34 have been added to more particularly point out distinguishing features of the present invention. Claim 28, which has not been previously presented, is similar to Claim 14, which the Examiner indicated in the August 24, 2002 Office Action (the "8/24 Office Action") would be allowable if rewritten. Applicant believes new Claim 28 should also be allowable. Applicant also submits that new Claims 29-34, which depend from new Claim 28, should also be allowable.

Applicant has now made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. Other than as explicitly set forth above, this reply does not include an acquiescence to statements, assertions, assumptions, conclusions, or any combination thereof in the Office Action. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of Claims 1-12 and 21-34. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below for prompt action in the event any issues remain.

The Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-3183 of Sprinkle IP Law Group.

Respectfully submitted,

Sprinkle IP Law Group
Attorneys for Applicant

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John L. Adair".

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